

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 076094
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076094

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TH, US

SUBJECT:VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT - POSSIBLE SECURITY
ASSISTANCE INITIATIVES

1. IN PLANNING FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THAI-
LAND, DEPT/DOD IS CONSIDERING THREE INITIATIVES DESIGNED
TO REASSURE THE THAI THAT THE UNITED STATES REMAINS
RESPONSIVE TO THAI SECURITY CONCERNS:

-- WITH REGARD TO THE THAI INTEREST IN ACQUIRING AN
EFFECTIVE AIRBORNE ANTI-ARMOR CAPABILITY, WE PROPOSE
SUGGESTING HELICOPTER MOUNTED TOW MISSILES. A COMPLETE
COBRA (AH-1)/TOW PACKAGE IS A POSSIBILITY (RECENT THAI
MILITARY VISITORS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE COBRA). IF
THE COBRA/TOW PACKAGE IS NOT CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE,
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THAILAND COULD MOUNT THE TOW ON ITS EXISTING HELICOPTERS
WITHOUT MAJOR DIFFICULTY OR PROCURE ADDITIONAL BELL OR
HUGHES HELICOPTERS ESPECIALLY CONFIGURED FOR TOW.

-- THE ADDITIONAL SQUADRON OF 18 F-5E AIRCRAFT LOOKS
FAVORABLE. IF NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE COMPLETED QUICKLY,
THE ADDITIONAL SQUADRON COULD POSSIBLY BE DELIVERED IN

1980.

-- IN VIEW OF THAI INTEREST IN AN EFFECTIVE ANTI-AIRCRAFT
DEFENSE, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SELL THE CHAPARRAL
MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM AND PROVIDE THE REQUESTED P AND B
DATA.

2. THE RTG WOULD, OF COURSE, BE ABLE TO DRAW ON ITS
AVAILABLE FMS FINANCING AS APPROPRIATE FOR THE ABOVE
PURCHASES.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS SOONEST. VANCE

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